

MISSIONS - ROMANIA

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IT'S THAT TIME ALREADY, BUT WHY?



*"Why do the
Schmidt's come
back to the states
every year?"*



A new year already! It's hard to believe it, but we are in our third year in Romania, we first arrived here in 2006. Since then we have been involved with, and witnessed many things. We have seen God move, and we have been in His presence, it's amazing how the Lord has blessed us. Now I find myself writing about our return trip to the states once again, and perhaps some of you may ask, "Why do the Schmidt's come back to the states every year?"

In this short article I would like to try and explain the reasons why we travel back to the states yearly. Some might think that it is because we miss our friends and family and even our country, and yes that's true. But that is not the reason for our travel.

We have been so blessed to partner with brothers and sisters who are faithful in their monthly giving; some have been with us from the beginning. But the fact is we don't have enough money coming in each month to stay in Romania, we face monthly financial attrition. So we have to travel back to the states for several months each year and visit churches that allow us to raise the money we need to stay in Romania through offerings, and pledge renewals. This helps us to balance our budget.

If it were possible we would limit our travel, but we face a very difficult choice. Do we allow our budget to dwindle, possibly forcing us to return to the states (but always remembering God is able). Or do we pray, email, pray again and email again and allow God to open doors of opportunity. It's a very difficult dilemma, especially now, what would you do?

Caroline and Matt leave for the states in just a few days (please pray for their safe travel). They will be attending two missions' conferences, and then make their way to Texas where they will hopefully have the opportunity to visit some churches. I will leave Romania around the first of April, and go to Texas to get my family, and then we will head up north. We will be apart for 2 months.

During these difficult times our nation now faces our financial requirements may seem trivial. But because of you we have reached literally thousands of people with the gospel of Jesus Christ in Romania and Bulgaria, and there is so much more to do. It is my hope that in these few short paragraphs I have helped you to understand why we do what we do. Would you help us continue this work?

UPDATE... Please go to page 3 and read "Just in."

SHORT BITS OF INTEREST

Books for our library were donated by Brother Gale Barnett and Dr. Vaught

Sunday Church Service

This past Sunday I visited a church in Oradea with about 300 members, the pastor had asked me to preach on Revelation chapter four. Sometimes I struggle when I am asked to preach on a certain scripture. I think that somehow this takes away from God's leading. But I was certainly wrong on this occasion.

I know that I have mentioned before that Romanian churches worship in a very different way than American churches do. Here, we pray for the first hour, sing for the second hour, and preach for the third hour.

This Sunday was not any different, we sang and prayed, and I felt the presence of God. I asked the church if we see the Lord as He is revealed in Revelation chapter four. I asked them if they believed that He was worthy of this kind of worship.

At the end of the sermon I asked the singers to come and lead us in worship. As they came to sing, God began to move. It started out small, weeping to my left, a shout to my right. But as we continued to worship it seemed to crescendo, with people crying out to God, worshipping in a way that I have not experienced in a city church in Romania. For fifteen minutes people in every corner and every pew of that sanctuary cried out to God with raised hands. What a blessing to be with God's people, and to know that no matter where we are, or how we worship, God is there with us!

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:"



"No matter where we are, or how we worship, God is there...."



Here's the Library



It is a very nice room



Plenty of room at the study table



But as you can see we still need more books

MEET PASTOR MATEI STROIE

I'd like to introduce you to an amazing man, Pastor Matei Stroie. He is 61 years old and, well, it's hard to put his story into words, but I'll try. He is married to Maria, and they have 6 children.

Pastor Matei has been preaching for over 30 years. Before the revolution that removed communism from Romania he would travel around the country preaching, sometimes risking persecution. At the present time he pastors 3 churches (plus one church plant) in the villages surrounding Oradea.

Pastor Matei has no car; he travels 150 km (94 Miles) every Sunday to go to his churches. He travels 1 1/2 hour by train, then walks for another hour to get to one of his churches. He told me that sometimes the people from the church will have someone that can pick him up, but he usually walks. He then walks back to the train station (another hour) after service, gets on a train and travels back to Oradea, then travels another

35 km in the other direction to get to his other churches. This man of God has also planted a church, which at the present time is holding services in a gypsy home.

Why is this man so amazing? Well he is 62 years old, but more than that, the whole time we talked I could see the joy of the Lord in this man. He smiled for most of the time we spoke; there was just something about him. He never once complained about his situation, and never once asked for any type of assistance. He wants to see people come to Christ, to have them walk in the newness of life.

What he did ask for was prayer! He asked that anyone reading this bio would pray for him and the ministries that the Lord has allowed him to do. The only real need that he mentioned was not for him, but for his daughter who needs a home, an apartment to stay in. Please pray for this man, and his daughter that she would find an apartment.

EVER THOUGHT ABOUT A MISSIONS TRIP

You've heard other Christians talk about them; you've read the stories about the things they did and saw. Maybe you've always thought about going on one, but you didn't know how, or where to go. I know, that you know, I'm talking about taking a short-term missions trip. I'd like you to pray about coming to Romania. I'd like you to pray about becoming involved with a church here, or the ministerial school.

There are approximately 27 ongoing projects here in the Bihor region of Romania. There are also 264 churches; where there are many ministry opportunities available. Plus, I'm here to help in any way that I can, you won't be left on your own in a foreign country. Pray about it, talk to your people about it, and let us know.

"Every time I write these short bios on these men and their families, I am amazed at what they do"

Just In

I need your prayers. I have been asked by a non-denominational ministry in Romania to be their featured speaker at outdoor evangelization events held in the sports stadiums of the larger cities across the country. What an opportunity to reach thousands of people, what a responsibility!!



Span the Globe, Tell the World, Reap the Harvest.

THOUGHTS FROM CAROLINE

Missionaries to Romania

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Phone:
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Just call our skype number and even though we are in Romania you can talk to us for the same cost as making a call to a stateside Texas number

E-Mail:
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Or at
missions_romania@yahoo.com

We're on the Web!

For the latest updates on what the Lord is doing in Romania, and ways you may be able to help.

See us at:
www.missions-romania.org

"Everyone appreciated your thoughtfulness..."

It almost seems that we go from one holiday celebration to the next one very quickly now. They seem to be merging one into the other, or perhaps it is because I am becoming older, there's Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year, then Valentine's Day and next pops up Easter, Mothers Day, Fathers Day, 4th of July!! Enough to keep us all very busy.

It was recently my natural birthday and also the anniversary of my spiritual birth, which of course gave me some thought as to the years that had transpired from then to now. Much has changed over the years (weight, wrinkles, and grey hairs) but I asked myself, do these changes define who I am? For me the answer is no, how about you. Then I looked at my spiritual life, how are my faith, trust, forgiveness and love measuring up? Inventories are at the best of times difficult, but an evaluation is necessary. Sometimes I wish it was as easy to see areas in my spiritual life that need care and attention as it is to see that new wrinkle or gray hair.

Here's an update on the Christmas card missions, there were two 1st place cards to arrive, and they came on the same day and were also mailed on the same date, so they get to share, The Church of God Inverness, Scotland, and World Missions Dept. Cleveland. 2nd place goes to Jake and Becky Popejoy, field reps, in Iowa, and 3rd place goes to Center Point Church of God Weatherford TX., pastors' Terry and Harriet Mitchell. The most cards received from a church go to Cassandra Heber's Wednesday evening class at West Minot Church of God Minot N.D, 2nd place goes to Prairieview Church of God, Beulah N.D. Next year I will have to give a challenge for all you emailers also, your cards brought great joy to us and we loved your newsletters.

As you may also remember I had requested that perhaps you might send a card or candy to Bobby (our son serving a second tour in Afghanistan) and once again you responded with love. Bobby received many cards and bags of candy. So much so that he was able to give too many of the other service members, not just Americans he is stationed at a NATO base, and everyone appreciated your thoughtfulness. You did such a wonderful job that now they have sent me a request, apparently they would like... wait for it... here's the drum roll!!! Yes you guessed it, Ramen noodles!!! Who would have thought of it, they eat them dry, they have no microwave so it has to be the regular kind, also trail mix, peanuts ,beef jerky, fruit roll ups, granola bars any type of lunch box snacks, chips in containers like Pringles, so there you have it. I will close for now drop me an email sometime.

Serving together,

Caroline



On the left Bob is receiving an award and to the right he is posing with his gun

